(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely time by which it will be declared as National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Allocation of Funds for new highways in Meghalaya

1330. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for construction of roads in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievement reported in respect of road projects in the State during this period;

(c) whether Government have allocated funds for the purpose during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Surface Transport is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only and Roads other than National highways are the responsibility of concerned State Government.

For development of National Highways during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 Rupees 9.00 Crore, 9.20 Crore and 10.00 Crore respectively have been allocated. Against these the amounts of Rs. 8.56 Crore, 9.01 Crore and 9.11 Crore were spent during these three years respectively.

(c) and (d) Allocation for entire 9th Five Year Plan is not done initially. Year wise allocation is done on the basis of Projects actually sanctioned and in progress.

Reduction of Government equity in SCI

1331. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to privatise the Shipping Corporation of India and the Department of Disinvestment is looking after the various options of privatising India's largest shipping company;

(b) whether Government are planning a blueprint to bring down Government's holding in SCI to below 50 percent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission, in its 4th report, had given recommendations for disinvestment of shares in SCI. The Commission had, *inter-alia*, recommended disinvestment of 40% of SCI's shares to the Oil Sector companies, over and above the 20% shares already disinvested. As the Oil Sector Companies have indicated that they may not be keen on buying SCI equity, the Government has initiated action to consider various other options.

Four laning of Bangalore-Devanahalli National Highway

1332. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for four laning of the National Highway on Bangalore-Devanahalli section to an extent of 30 Kms. for alignment approval and sanction for land acquisition; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and Government's view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) 4-lanning of Bangalore-Devanahalli section on NH-7 is proposed to be done along the existing road alignment except for Yelahanka bypass, for which the alignment is already approved and land acquisition estimate is sanctioned.

Golden Quadrilateral Road Project

1333. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: